

Application No. 09/900,049
Reply to Office Action of April 27, 2004

Amendments to the Specification

Page 5, lines 16-26, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Figs. 17A and 17B are diagrams for explaining the above-mentioned prior art handoff method. In the figures, reference numeral 111-1 denotes a foreign agent (FA) from which an ME 102 is moving, and numeral ~~112-1~~111-2 denotes a foreign agent (FA) to which the ME 102 is moving. The other components of Fig. 17A are the same as those shown in Fig. 16A. In accordance with the handoff method disclosed in the Internet draft (draft-mkhalil-mobileip-buffer-00.txt), the ME detects a handoff. Hereafter, assume that 25 FAs can detect a handoff according to the other Internet draft (draft-elmalki-soliman-hmipv4v6-00.txt).

Page 25, line 29 through page 26, line 5, please amend the paragraph as follows:

A handoff method according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention determines whether an IP packet destined for an ME 2 is of real-time traffic or of non-real-time traffic by determining a Differentiated Service Code Point DSCP value placed, as an attribute of the IP packet, in a DS field region of an IP header of the IP packet by using either an HA 3 or 41, as shown in Fig. 1A or 4A, or a GFA 21, as shown in Fig. 3.

Page 29, line 13 through page 30, line 11, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Fig. 10 is a diagram showing one example of a cellular phone network in accordance with the Radio Access Network standard of 3GPP, which can perform mobile IP procedures, and which implements a handoff method according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention. In Fig. 10, reference numerals 81, 81-1, and 81-2 denote radio network control units (RNC) each of which has a function of serving as a foreign agent, and each of which gives and receives an authority to control a cellular phone 83 as a handoff according to ~~an a~~ Serving Radio Network Control SRNC relocation procedure. In addition, the RNC 81 is the

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one which accommodates a cellular phone 84 that is the party on the other end of the communication with the cellular phone 83. The RNC 81-1 is the one from which the cellular phone 83 is moving. The RNC 81-2 is the one to which the cellular phone 83 is moving. Reference numeral 82 denotes a base station that performs communication by radio between the RNC-81 and cellular phones accommodated by the RNC 81, numeral 82-1 denotes a base station that performs communication by radio between the RNC 81-1 and cellular phones accommodated by the RNC 81-1, and numeral 82-2 denotes a base station that performs communication by radio between the RNC 81-2 and cellular phones accommodated by the RNC 81-2. Each of the cellular phones (ME) 83 and 84 can serve as mobile terminal equipment. It is assumed that neither of the RNCs 81-1 and 81-2 included in the network has a soft handover function. The explanation about the other components of Fig. 10 will be omitted hereafter because they are the same as those of the first embodiment as shown in Fig. 1A.